LPG Connections in Uttaranchal

4048. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Uttaranchal population being served by LPG as on 31st March 2006;

(b) by when entire population in cities, towns, villages and far-flung areas of Uttaranchal are proposed to be served with LPG;

(c) whether Government propose to give some concession in the gas cylinders to those weaker families in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As on 31.3.2006, Public Sector Oil Marketing companies (OMCs) were operating 161 LPG distributorship in the State of Uttaranchal. Through these distributorship, OMCs are serving about 13.43 lakhs LPG customers.

(b) OMCs supply domestic LPG through their distribution network and have the freedom to set up LPG distributorship at viable locations as per their commercial considerations. The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances. Though, it is not possible to indicate a specific time frame for setting up of new LPG distributorships, Government has advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban and rural areas in the country.

(c) and (d) Domestic LPG is a heavily subsidized product with Government and oil companies sharing the subsidy on LPG.

Reduction in cost of production

4049. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private oil companies like Reliance etc. are selling petroleum products at low cost than the public sector undertakings;